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Application No. 01 310 280.1 - 1244	Ref. 205914/JPR/sjr	Date 19.12.2003
Applicant Nokia Corporation		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).



DUPUIS H J M
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 6 page/s reasons (Form 2906)

**Bescheld/Protokoll (Anlage)**

Datum
Date 19.12.2003
Date

Communication/Minutes (Annex)

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Sheet 1
Feuille

Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)

Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 01 310 280:1
Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents:**

Text for the Contracting States:

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE TR LI

Description, pages:

1-21 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-35 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

1 The following documents are referred to in this communication. Document D2 is cited by the examiner (see the Guidelines, C-VI, 8.9). A copy of the document D2 is annexed to the communication and the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: WO 00 69140 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 16 November 2000
(2000-11-16)

D2: EP 0810799 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC.) 03 December
1997 (1997-12-03)

2 The application does not meet the requirements of Article 84 EPC because the set of claims is not clear.

2.1 Claims 27 and 35 have been drafted as separate independent apparatus claims.

Under Article 84 in combination with Rule 29(2) EPC an application may contain more than one independent claim in a particular category only if the subject



matter claimed falls within one or more of the exceptional situations set out in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of Rule 29(2) EPC. This is not the case in the present application however, since the independent apparatus claims differ merely in the wording they are using. Therefore it is unclear for which subject matter protection is asked.

- 3 Furthermore, the above-mentioned lack of clarity notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claims 1-3,5,7,12-14,20,23,24,26-27,29,33-35 is not new in the sense of Article 54(1) and (2) EPC, and therefore the requirements of Article 52(1) EPC are not met.

- 3.1 As for claim 1, document D1 discloses a method for providing (D1, page 4, lines 4-6) services (D1, page 18, line 25 - page 19, line 1) for clients associated (D1, page 5, lines 3-7) with a data communication network, said services being provided by at least one external service provider (D1, page 24, lines 8-10), the method comprising:
- signalling (D1, page 17, lines 17-20 and page 41, lines 17-22) from said at least one external service provider offers (D1, page 4, line 18 - page 5, line 7) that associate with services to an interface entity associated with the data network;
 - processing the offers at the interface entity in order to make a decision (D1, page 4, lines 18-28 and page 16, lines 8-19) regarding the acceptance of the offers; including (D1, page 50, lines 23-25) accepted services into a register (D1, page 24, lines 24-26 and page 38, lines 3-17 and page 50, lines 7-13) of services that are available for the clients;
 - requesting (D1, page 15, lines 25-26) for a service from the interface entity for use by one of said clients;
 - processing (D1, page 16, lines 15-18) the request by the interface entity to find a matching service from the registered services; and
 - if a matching service is found, requesting (D1, page 15, lines 25-26, page 16, lines 15-18) for said service from an external service provider providing said service by communicating a message to said external service provider based on a protocol that enables initiation of a service provisioning session.

Since all features of claim 1 are known in combination from document D1, the



subject-matter of claim 1 is not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

3.2 The additional features of claims 2,3,5,7,12-14,20,23,24 and 26 are also known from the following passages of document D1:

- claim 2: D1, page 15, lines 26-27;
- claim 3: D1, page 5, lines 17-23 and page 22, lines 24-26 and page 60, lines 13-14;
- claim 5: D1, page 4, line 18- page 5, line 7;
- claim 7: D1, page 56, line 10- page 57, line 15;
- claim 12: D1, page 14, lines 5-7 and page 18, lines 20-22;
- claim 13: D1, page 14, lines 12-15;
- claim 14: D1, the whole document;
- claim 20: D1, page 5, lines 23-25 and page 21, lines 24-26 and page 38, lines 3-17 and page 50, lines 7-13;
- claims 23,24: D1, page 5, lines 17-23 and page 22, lines 24-26 and page 60, lines 13-14;
- claim 26: D1, page 17, lines 25-26.

Since all features of claims 2,3,5,7,12-14,20,23,24 and 26 are known in combination from document D1, the subject-matter of claim 2,3,5,7,12-14,20,23,24 and 26 is not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

3.3 As for claim 27, document D2 discloses a service interface arrangement (D2, column 6, lines 5-9) for a data network (D2, column 4, lines 41-43), comprising: an interface for receiving (D2, column 7, lines 2-4 and column 9, lines 16-17 and column 12, lines 11-30 and page 14, line 57 - page 15, line 13) information regarding services that are offered by at least one external service provider (D2, column 2, lines 22-36), said services being for use (D2, column 10, lines 12-16) by clients associated with the data network; selection means (D2, column 7, lines 4-8) for selecting services based on said information; agreement means (D2, column 7, lines 10-24 and column 10, lines 12-28) for processing agreements between the data network and said at least one external service provider;



a register (D2, column 7, lines 2-4 and column 9, lines 16-17 and column 12, lines 11 -30 and page 14, line 57 - page 15, line 13) for services provided by said at least one external service provider, said services being selected (D2, column 7, lines 4-8) by said selection means to be available for the clients; request means (D2, column 9, lines 13-1 6) for processing a request for a service by a client, said request means being arranged to look (D2, column 9, lines 13-1 6) for a service that matches the request from the register and, if a matching service is located (D2, column 9, lines 10-13), to request for said service from an external service provider providing said service, wherein the request means are arranged to communicate (D2, column 12, line 48 - page 13, line 15) with said external service provider based on a protocol (D2, column 7, lines 25-51) that enables initiation of service provisioning.

Since all features of claim 27 are known in combination from document D1, the subject-matter of claim 27 is not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

- 3.4 As for claim 35, document D2 discloses a data communication system (D2, column 4, lines 41-43), comprising:
- a data network (D2, column 4, lines 41-43);
 - at least one external service provider (D2, column 2, lines 22-36);
 - an interface entity (D2, column 7, lines 2-4 and column 9, lines 1 6-17 and column 12, lines 11-30 and page 14, line 57-page 15, line 13) for receiving information regarding services that are offered by said at least one external service provider,
 - said services being for use (D2, column 10, lines 12-16) by clients associated with the data network, wherein the interface entity is arranged to process (D2, column 7, lines 2-4 and column 9, lines 16-17 and column 12, lines 11-30 and page 14, line 57-page 15, line 13) said information, to process agreements (D2, column 7, lines 10-24 and column 10, lines 12-28) between the data network and said at least one external service provider, to register (D2, column 7, lines 2-4 and column 9, lines 16-17 and column 12, lines 11-30 and page 14, line 57 -page 15, line 13) services that are selected (D2, column 7, lines 4-8) among services provided by said at least one external service provider, and to process a request (D2, column 9, lines 13-1 6) for a service by a client to search (D2, column 9,



lines 13-1 6) for a service from the register that matches the request and, if a matching service is located, to request (D2, column 9, lines 10-13) for said service from an external service provider providing said service, the arrangement being such that at least a part of the communication (D2, column 12, line 48- page 13, line 15) between the interface entity and said external service provider is based on a protocol (D2, column 7, lines 25-51) that enables initiation of service provisioning.

Since all features of claim 35 are known in combination from document D1, the subject-matter of claim 35 is not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

3.5 The additional features of claims 29,33 and 34 are also known from the following passages of document D2.

- claim 29: D2, column 7, lines 25-51;
- claim 33: D2, column 2, lines 7-14 and lines 39-48 and column 2, line 57 -column 3, line 5 and column 5, lines 23-27;
- claim 34: D2, column 7, lines 19-21.

Since all features of claims 29,33 and 34 are known in combination from document D1, the subject-matter of claims 29,33 and 34 is not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

4 The applicant is requested to file new claims which take account of the above comments. At the same time, the applicant is invited to put the application in conformity with the following aspects.

4.1 The independent claims should be cast in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 29(1) EPC, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 29(1)(a) EPC) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 29(1)(b) EPC).

4.2 The features of the claims should be provided with reference signs placed in parentheses to increase the intelligibility of the claims (Rule 29(7) EPC). This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion (see the Guidelines, C-



III, 4.11).

- 4.3 To meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, the documents D1 and D2 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.
- 4.4 When filing new claims, the description has to be brought in conformity with the amended claims (Rule 27(1)(c) EPC). This particularly concerns the description, page 6, line 11 - page 8, line 11, largely reciting the present claim language.
- 4.5 Care should be taken not to introduce any subject-matter which violates Article 123(2) EPC.

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